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Globalization and interdependence: culture and sustainable development

Letter dated 20 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you information on the principal areas of national cultural policy and its implementation in Kyrgyzstan in 2016 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly under item 22 (c) of the agenda.

(*Signed*) Mirgul **Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Principal areas of national cultural policy and its implementation in Kyrgyzstan in 2016

Recent changes in Kyrgyzstan indicate that the country is moving confidently towards establishing its own development model, a well-balanced blend of contemporary democracy's most progressive achievements and the legal, democratic, moral and cultural traditions of our people.

The task of strengthening financial and economic independence and Kyrgyz statehood overall is integral to the spiritual rebirth of the people. Accordingly, the national strategy for sustainable development of the Kyrgyz Republic for the period 2013-2017 defines culture as a major resource for national development.

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, ratified by Kyrgyzstan; laws in effect on culture, the preservation of traditional knowledge, the preservation and use of historical and cultural heritage, the Epic of Manas and intangible cultural heritage; and the Kyrgyz Government programme for the development of culture over the period to 2020 lay the basis for preserving and building on the historical and cultural heritage of the people of Kyrgyzstan and ensuring the continuity of their development, as well as for preserving the integrity of national cultures worldwide.

The national cultural policy is designed to strengthen the unity of the people, improve language policy and present the key stages of the history of Kyrgyzstan in a systematic manner. Scholars in Kyrgyzstan have promoted research into overlooked aspects of national history and culture, fostering a more holistic vision. A new national policy on religion is also taking shape.

Given the importance of international and regional cultural cooperation in bringing peoples together, raising awareness of cultural diversity and ensuring sustainable development, the Government hosts annual events in Kyrgyzstan dedicated to the cultures of foreign countries and also organizes Days of Kyrgyz Culture abroad. In 2016, Days of Kyrgyz Culture are being held in China, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan.

In order to preserve and further develop the extremely rich historical and cultural heritage of the people of Kyrgyzstan, build a unique national development model, set new moral guidelines and bring citizens together in pursuit of the common goal of building a strong and prosperous nation, 2016 has been declared, by Presidential decree, the Year of History and Culture.

The year 2016 is studded with events and anniversaries of great significance for the establishment of Kyrgyz statehood, events that occupy a special place in the nation's historical and cultural heritage. For example, the twenty-fifth anniversary of national independence, the ninetieth anniversary of the establishment of the Kyrgyz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the eightieth anniversary of the establishment of the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic all fall in 2016. The people of Kyrgyzstan cherish the memory of the national liberation uprising of 1916, whose 100th anniversary is this year, as they do the memory of Tailak-batyr, a hero who

fought for Kyrgyz independence. The 220th anniversary of his birth date also falls in 2016.

In addition, the people of Kyrgyzstan and the Turkic world as a whole are marking the one-thousandth anniversary of the birth of the great thinker Jusup Balasagyn.

The Year of History and Culture will include around 78 cultural events overall. Among these are the International Children's Festival of Language and Culture, a ballet festival in Bishkek, ethnic and cultural festivals, an international artists' festival and a museum week.

As a way to preserve cultural diversity, Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambaev proposed in 2012 the first ever World Nomad Games, whose mission is to revitalize and preserve the culture, identity and ways of life of peoples of the world in the era of globalization.

In 2014, Kyrgyzstan hosted the first World Nomad Games. People from 19 countries participated in traditional sports competitions and demonstrated the cultural wealth of nomadic peoples, whose values include harmonious coexistence with nature.

The rich heritage on display at the Nomad Games sparked keen interest and positive feedback from spectators from more than 30 countries, bearing out the international significance of the Games in promoting intercultural dialogue and dialogue among civilizations.

The leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic therefore decided to convene in 2016 a second World Nomad Games, to be held from 3 to 8 September, on the shores of Lake Ysyk-Kol.

The second World Nomad Games will present folk and ethnic games and 23 types of ethnically specific sports, bringing together athletes from more than 40 countries. Media outlets from 50 countries will cover the Games. This initiative by Kyrgyzstan to revitalize and preserve the cultures of nomadic peoples represents a significant contribution to the development of intercultural dialogue and sustainable development, both at home and abroad.